

similar situations. She has dealt with federal and state officials on a wide variety of other pest and disease issues that threatened to disrupt the flow of floral products. In working on these issues, Lin is often recognized because of her ability to get people to focus on the science of an issue and not only the politics. With that said, she knows politics in Washington, D.C., and at the state level and uses her knowledge to help diffuse challenging situations and work toward solutions.

Through all of her interactions with government officials, Lin emphasizes candor and transparency. For that, people in both the industry and government place great trust in her word.

At The Society of American Florists, Lin dedicated herself to staging SAF's annual Congressional Action Days event, and helped to inform and educate SAF members on the key issues of the day. And she has also had a major role in developing its annual Pest and Production Management Conference, a must-see for scientists, researchers and growers. Lin was honored this year with SAF's John H. Walker Award for excellence in the field of association management and she also received the Executive Director's Award from the North American Plant Protection Organization for her collaborative work with regulatory officials from the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to rise and celebrate Lin's excellence in fighting for the floral industry every day on Capitol Hill and for her deep commitment to collaboration and partnerships.

HONORING THE BICENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION OF OSWEGO COUNTY

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the people and history of Oswego County, New York and celebrate the county's 200th Anniversary. The County of Oswego was established in March of 1816 through an act of the New York State Legislature. The county occupies 986 square miles of land on the southeastern shore of Lake Ontario.

The County of Oswego has played a significant role in the history of the Central New York region as well as our nation's history. Fort Ontario, overlooking Lake Ontario, in Oswego County, is one of our nation's most unique and historical landmarks. Fort Ontario is the only fort that has been involved in every war since the French and Indian War. During World War II, the Fort served as the nation's only Emergency Refugee Camp, sheltering nearly 1,000 refugees. The Fort is now a state historic site and operates as a museum, attracting tourists from across the country.

Fort Ontario is just one example of the great history in Oswego County. As Oswego County celebrates its bicentennial, I want to honor all who have helped make Oswego County great and thank everyone who has played a part in preserving the irreplaceable history of Oswego County.

DEBATE COACH OF THE YEAR:
DAVE PRITSCHET

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dave Pritschet, of Brainerd High School in Brainerd, Minnesota, who has been named 2016 Coach of the Year by the Minnesota Debate Teachers Association.

Dave built a great and growing debate program at Brainerd High School that has brought so much honor and recognition to his students and to our entire community. In fact, under Dave's guidance, the program has sent students to state and national debate tournaments in every year but one since 2000. So it's no wonder his fellow coaches saw fit to recognize those achievements with this year's award.

Though his students debate many things, they can all agree Coach Pritschet's knowledge and passion for the art of debate motivates them to strive for excellence. Moreover, the success Brainerd's debate team has earned and enjoyed is inspiring other schools throughout rural Minnesota to form debate teams where students learn to respectfully exchange ideas and opinions based on facts. That ability to speak clearly and eloquently will take them far in life; perhaps even to this very Chamber one day.

Once again, it is an honor to recognize with my colleagues Minnesota's 2016 Coach of the Year, Dave Pritschet.

BAKKEN U

HON. KEVIN CRAMER

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, the people of North Dakota have many admirable qualities. Throughout the history of my state, they have shown resourcefulness and perseverance as they have produced food to feed a hungry world and unlocked today's shale oil revolution.

With low oil prices bringing a slowdown in the energy sector, North Dakotans are again showing their resilience. Many are looking to improve themselves by gaining new skills and more education. Bakken U, an innovative new program from the North Dakota University System that is funded by the North Dakota Petroleum Council, is helping make that happen.

I want to congratulate Warren Logan of Dickinson, who left college a few years ago to work in North Dakota's oilfields. As the first recipient of a \$5,000 Bakken U scholarship, he will continue to work fulltime while also being a fulltime student, finishing the business administration degree he began to pursue years ago.

Warren is the first of many ambitious North Dakotans to take advantage of this unique Bakken U program. Bettering themselves with additional education is certain to benefit them and my entire state.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,090,880,799,021.63. We've added \$8,464,003,750,108.55 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ART OF LIVING
FOUNDATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Art of Living Foundation for its thirty-five years of promoting human values around the world and to wish them well as they kick off their World Culture Festival on March 11th in New Delhi, India. I'd also like to recognize all of the volunteers around the world and in New Delhi who have spent countless hours organizing this truly magnificent event.

As a United States Congresswoman, I am focused on improving the lives of girls and women across the globe. I applaud the Art of Living Foundation's programs that focus on empowering girls and women by giving them access to education, vocational skills training, and self-development programs. The vision and actions of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and the Foundation to empower marginalized girls and women is a positive force for strengthening our future.

The World Culture Festival will bring together individuals from 155 diverse countries to promote peace and unity. Thank you for your tireless work and for your commitment to making the world a more peaceful and harmonious place. Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful World Culture Festival and congratulations to the Art of Living Foundation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 105, I was unavoidably detained and was unfortunately unable to vote in favor of H.R. 3716, the Ensuring Removal of Terminated Providers from Medicaid and CHIP Act. As a doctor, I know how important it is to make sure that only qualified professionals are eligible for participating in health care programs like Medicaid and CHIP. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.